

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method comprising:

generating session information for a client, a system node, and a data node if the client and system nodes satisfy at least one condition for accessing each other;

receiving at the data node a request from the client to access the system node and a request from the system node to access the client; and

establishing a secure authenticated connection between the client and the system node via the data node based at least in part on the session information.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving at a control node a request from the client for the session information.
3. The method of claim 1, further comprising registering the system node with a control node.
4. The method of claim 1, further comprising providing a list of registered system nodes to the client, wherein the system node is selected at the client from the list of registered system nodes.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising notifying the system node when a message is received from the client at the data node.

6. The method of claim 5, further comprising establishing a secure authenticated connection between the system node and the data node.

7. The method of claim 6, sending the message from the data node to the system node over the secure authenticated connection between the system node and the data node.

8. A computer program product encoding computer programs for executing on a control node and a data node a computer process, the computer process comprising:

generating session information for a client, a system node, and a data node if the client and system nodes satisfy at least one condition for accessing each other;

receiving at the data node a request from the client to access the system node and a request from the system node to access the client; and

establishing a secure authenticated connection between the client and the system node via the data node based at least in part on the session information.

9. The computer program product of claim 8 wherein the computer process at the control node further comprises registering the system node.

10. The computer program product of claim 8 wherein the computer process at the control node further comprises updating a client database with a dynamic network address for the system node on a recurring basis.

11. The computer program product of claim 8 wherein the computer process at the data node further comprises:

- notifying the system node when a message is received from the client at the data node;
- establishing a secure authenticated connection between the system node and the data node; and
- sending the message from the data node to the system node over the secure authenticated connection between the system node and the data node.

12. A system for establishing a secure authenticated network connection between a client and a system node, comprising:

a control node linked to the client and the system node, the control node providing the client and the system node with session information if the client and system node satisfy at least one condition for accessing each other; and

a data node communicatively coupled to the control node, the data node a request from the client to access the system node and a request from the system node to access the client and establishing a secure authenticated connection between the client and the system node via the data node based at least in part on the session information.

13. The system of claim 12 wherein the session information includes at least a network address for the system node.

14. The system of claim 12 wherein the session information includes at least a dynamic network address for the system node.

15. The system of claim 12 wherein the session information includes a status of the system node.

16. The system of claim 12 wherein the secure authenticated connection between the data node and the system node is established in response to the data node receiving a message from the client.

17. The system of claim 12 further comprising a client database operatively associated with the control node, the client database including a data structure identifying system nodes registered with the control node.

18. The system of claim 17 wherein the data structure identifies authorized users of the system nodes registered with the control node.

19. The system of claim 12 further comprising a session database operatively associated with the data node, the session database storing the session information received from the control node.

20. The system of claim 12 wherein the session information for a client session is removed from the session database when the client session ends.